

New Junior Loop Opens Up Tuesday

Former NHL Great Babe Pratt To Make Appearance

Former National Hockey League great Babe Pratt will launch the newly-formed Okanagan Junior Amateur Hockey League into orbit Tuesday night at the Civic Arena.

Accompanied by Daily Province sportswriter Eric Whitehead, Pratt will give the green light to the junior season as Odie Lowe's Vernon Juniors take on the Kelowna Buckaroos coached by former Packer Brian Roche.

With Lowe in Prince George over the weekend, no Vernon

lineup will be announced until just before game time.

Sunday's final practice saw goalies Bob Jones and Larry Pirnak display top form. But neither is expected to see action against the Buckaroos now that regular custodian George Beck is on his way back from Flin Flon.

Jones, a Westwold youngster has impressed Vernon officials in recent workouts, and will be standing by to fill in if Beck fails to make it back in time.

Defensively Vernon seems strong with last season's regulars Harry Wynnychuk and Warren Henry providing the experience, and Wayne Morris, Dave MacKay, Ron Ball, Don Roland and Garth Gill showing enough in practice to make coach Lowe pretty happy with his blueline patrol.

In attack Vernon may have some problems. Only forward with junior experience is Dave

Kowal. Others vying for positions Tuesday night are Dale Sorochnik, Jim Stephen, Alec McBride, Allen Sturn, Eddie Spelay, Buck Sherke, Ron Ross, Dale Frandsen, Bob Morrison, Bruce Morris and Gary Roland.

100 PER CENT EFFORT

All coaches in the four team loop comprising Kamloops, Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton, don't predict any Memorial Cup contenders this season, but assure fans of 100 per cent effort by their players.

One thing is sure. Junior hockey, like any kind of hockey, needs fan support and the resultant financial backing. So far response to the sale of season tickets locally has been practically non-existent, but these are still available and can be bought at the Allison Hotel or at the arena box office for the modest sum of \$5.25 for 15 home games.

Tuesday night's opening ceremonies will see Mayor Frank Becker, himself a former president of the BCAHA, introduce special guest Babe Pratt. After a short address Michael Harms from the VMHA's Pup Division will drop the puck to officially get the new junior loop underway. Game time is eight o'clock.

Kelowna Cubs Fired From Grid League

Vernon Panthers were without a game Saturday following the expulsion of their opposition — Kelowna Cubs — at an emergency meeting of the Okanagan Mainline High Schools Canadian Football League here Thursday night.

In a press release Friday, Dr. E. M. Stevenson, chairman of the league directorate, said Cubs had been asked to with-

Junior Hockey Officials Aim To Replace Hapless Seniors

The new Okanagan-Mainline Junior "A" Hockey Association moved a step closer to fruition when a meeting was held to discuss the constitution in the Allison Hotel, Sunday morning.

Representatives from Vernon, Kelowna, Kamloops and Penticton attended.

League officials expressed hope that in future years teams would come out of the Okanagan capable of competing successfully for the Memorial Cup.

The association felt that junior "A" hockey, using local boys, will take the place of the nearly defunct senior "A" brand of hockey that has been steadily going downhill in the Okanagan for the past few years.

The subject of hookups with the Western Hockey League was broached and received full discussion.

Don Brown, from Kamloops, said: "I can't see us giving up our club to some pro organization." However, all members present agreed that donations received (without strings) would be most welcome.

A sense of urgency was incorporated into the discussion as it became apparent that an Intermediate setup using the former Senior "A" players was in the offing.